Before signing up for this songwriting course, I had previously already written songs and recorded them. I was on a roll and was seriously starting to take the steps to become a professional singer. I wanted to be known for my voice and known for the songs I wrote until a tragedy happened.

My little sister’s life was taken from her and I felt I had nowhere to run. I used to be able to write about my feelings through songs but it seemed like the way I felt just wasn’t coming to paper. I fell into depression and couldn’t go a day without crying. I was a complete mess last semester. Then the spring semester rolled around and everyone around me saw change. Music is my life and being a part of this class brought life to my low days. I was forced to write songs and finish projects that I couldn’t find the words for. Because of this class I was able to express my feelings again without crying or having panic attacks. Although this class is so simple, in my eyes it is beautiful and without it, I don’t think I would have made it through the semester. This course was exactly what I needed to get back to who I am and where I want to be.

I’m so thankful for my peers and their helpful and willing feedback. It showed me that I wasn’t the only one who got stuck in the middle of a song and I was able to learn techniques to keep the process going. I learned that rhyming is key but isn’t required just like poetry. I’ve heard the differences in using unstable and stable verses/choruses while learning to use them correctly. I’ve learned to give constructive criticism and take others advice on certain ideas. I also was forced to take a step out of my comfort zone and try new techniques. I wasn’t used to being accompanied by an instrument and now I think I love it.

During this course I learned a ton about things like harmony, melody, and stability. We used the 3-box method and stresses to organize and emphasize the important syllables in a word to make the song sound amazing. I can say that techniques I learned, I would have never tried or even thought about before beginning this class. I will always think of this class when I write a song or use a rhyming worksheet.

The ideas that were shared will forever stick with me and I can’t wait to see my peers do big things in the future. The last thing I learned was, you do not need to have a great voice to write a perfect song. Even if I don’t make it big time with my voice, I hope to have songs published or bought by famous people and I’ll be content with just that. I’m extremely blessed and thankful for this course and I will definitely take the things that were taught to me and use them for the rest of my life.